

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093955

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BEIRUT, TEL AVIV,
JERUSALEM, CAIRO, DIA WASHDC MAY 15, 1973 FROM AMMAN IS RE-
PEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2625

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, PFOR, IS, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN PREPARATIONS FOR WAR WITH ISRAEL

SYRIAN EXILE WITH CONTINUING ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES
WITHIN SYRIAN ARMY AND TRIBES (BUT OF UNTESTED RELIABILITY)
HAS TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT SARG SHOWING ALMOST CERTAIN SIGNS
OF HAVING MADE UP ITS MIND TO INITIATE WAR WITH ISRAEL AGAIN.
SOURCE BELIEVES SYRIANS HAVE COMPLETELY SOLD THEMSELVES ON
HOPELESSNESS OF SITUATION AND BELIEVE ONLY WAT OUT IS TO
PRECIPITATE A WAR THAT WILL A) CAUSE HEAVY ISRAELI CASUALTIES,
AND B) DRAG IN THE GREAT POWERS. SOURCE BASED ASSESS-
MENT ON INFORMATION THAT SARG ALREADY HAS WRITTEN OFF SOUTHERN
SYRIA AND IS PREPARING ITS MAIN DEFENSIVE LINE IN THE HOMS-
HAMA AREA. PREPARATIONS, SUCH AS PROVISION OF ALTERNATE
COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, ALREADY HAVE BEEN MADE TO MOVE
GOVERNMENT TO ALEPPO. FURTHERMORE, THE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT
A NUMBER OF SYRIAN LEADERS ALREADY HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE THEIR
FAMILIES TO ALEPPO. ONE OF THE FIRST TO DO SO IS MUSTAFA TLAS.
HE ADDED THAT GROUND UNITS SOUTH OF DAMASCUS AND THE AIR FORCE
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WILL BE USED IN NEAR- SUICIDE ATTACKS ON THE ISRAELI POSITIONS
IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND ON CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS BEYOND. SOURCE
WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER SYRIANS WOULD ATTACK IN CONJUNCTION WITH
EGYPTIANS OR WOULD USE THEIR ATTACK TO DRAG SADAT INTO THE
FIGHTING.
BROWN
UNQUOTE RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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